

THE RIDDLEDOWN RECORDER



**Date for your
Diary!**

Children's Christmas party
2nd December 2-4pm
St Edmund's Church

RRA AGM 11th April 2018
7.30pm St Edmund's Church

INSIDE

Workshop Report
Caring Group
Bees for Riddlesdown
And More....

ISSUE 204

AUTUMN 2017

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Front Cover Photo:

Autumn Tree – Rachel Tarrant, Local Resident

This is your local Community Magazine – for future issues we welcome your contributions, either directly about Riddlesdown or which are of interest to local residents – send these to editorrra@gmail.com

Further information and past issues of this magazine can be found on our website:

www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

All Emergencies: (Fire, Police, Ambulance) **999**

Police Non Emergency Number: **101**

Purley Police SNT: **07920 233892**

Sanderstead Police SNT: **020 8721 2470**

NHS Non Emergency Number : **111**

THE RIDDLEDOWN RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEMBERS



Brian Longman
*Chairman and Riddlesdown
Collegiate Liaison*



Phil Thomas
*Planning & Environmental;
Website Editor*



Linda Bevin
Treasurer



John Rapp
*Membership, Road Stewards and
Public Transport Concerns*



Neil Tarrant
Recorder Editor



Nick Tennant
Secretary



Frankie Wheeler
Footpaths Liaison



Diana Chitty
Footpaths Liaison



Janice Kedwards



Bill Whitmarsh



Monica Pugh



John Placek



Keith Powell



Jan Powell



You may write to the Riddlesdown Residents' Association at any of the following addresses:



Please mark your correspondence with the committee member's name, if applicable. Or you can e-mail any committee member at RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com or at any of the e-mail addresses listed above. RRA Notice Boards are situated by Riddlesdown Pharmacy and on the Green opposite the shops in Lower Barn Rd, on the side wall of St Edmunds Church, by K&K Food & Wine in Mitchley Ave.

We also use the Boards on the Green by St Edmund's Church and in the station waiting room.

Website: www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk Email RiddlesdownResidents@gmail.com

EDITOR'S NOTES

BY NEIL TARRANT

It has been a busy few months for the RRA. Much of the focus has been on the future of Riddlesdown both in the short and longer term. There have been numerous proposals for development within our area, which are detailed in Phil Thomas's Planning report. In response to these developments and the publication of the Croydon Plan the RRA have sought to draw up a Supplementary Planning Document. It is hoped that this document will allow residents to play some role in shaping the planning decisions that will affect us all. You can read Nick Tennant's report on the RRA's planning workshop held in July 2017,

consider residents ideas and join the conversation.

We also have a number of forthcoming activities and events. After the success of previous litter-picks, the RRA intend to run another one 11 November from 2pm at Mithley Hill/Dunmail Drive. Our popular Children's Christmas Party will also be running again this year on 2nd December (2-4 pm) at St Edmund's Church.

My usual thanks go to all the contributors to the magazine, and Roger Cherrill for setting the text.

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CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

BY BRIAN LONGMAN

The Future of Riddlesdown

Looking back over previous Recorders, I noticed in 1988, the Riddlesdown Residents' Association was named by the Care for Croydon Campaign, as the most caring Residents' Association in Croydon. I'm sure many of you will remember for example, the well-loved monthly dustcart collection, supported by willing RRA volunteers. It was especially helpful for the elderly and those without vehicles. While some things have changed, with the green waste and large unwanted household items now collected and charged for by the council, I do believe one thing has remained the same: the Association is still fully committed to working on behalf of all residents to both maintain and improve the local community. From roads to railways, housing to health, while not forgetting, communities, environment and local infrastructure, the Association does its best in maintaining and improving standards. However, if the Association is to remain meaningful and address the issues that are relevant for today's residents, we need your views and ideas. Hopefully most of you will now be aware of the current project being carried out by the Association. We are asking residents to let us know how they would like to see Riddlesdown develop as a community over the next 20 years or so. The project was introduced at our AGM in May and continued in July, at an open workshop for residents to discuss the issues and ideas, in more detail. A brief report of the workshop is included within this issue of the Recorder and we would welcome your feedback. A final meeting will be arranged later this year, before hopefully we can develop a shared vision document for the future development of Riddlesdown with residents and the Council.

Local Police

The Safer Neighbourhood Team (SNT) panel meets four times a year in open meetings, to represent the views of local residents on local policing issues. Currently Riddlesdown is covered by two Safer Neighbourhood Teams, Sanderstead and Purley. I have to say, although the meetings are open to all and dates and locations of the meetings are published on the RRA and the SNT Police website, very few residents attend. If you are interested, why not come along to the next meeting, for either the Purley or Sanderstead teams? The dates are on the RRA website, under the "Police" category on the left. At the last SNT meetings, both Sanderstead and Purley Safer Neighbourhood Teams, agreed to target three areas of concern to residents, burglary, motor vehicle crime and anti-social behaviour.

On burglary, the message from the Police is: burglars will usually try a shed or garage before they burgle a house because they can often find the tools they need to get into the house. Therefore make sure sheds, garages and back gates are securely locked and tools are not left in and around the garden. Many motor vehicle crimes can be avoided if drivers take simple crime prevention measures. Up to 50% of motor vehicles targeted, are either left unlocked, or with items left displayed in the parked vehicles. The answer is no surprise: don't leave valuables on display and do lock the car.

Farmland

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome to Riddlesdown, the new farmer of our two local fields at Mitchley Avenue and Mitchley Hill/Rectory Park: Nick Fuller and his son Oliver of Church Farm



Services. They are fifth and sixth generation farmers based in Woldingham. Their plan for the local fields is to establish meadow grassland that they intend to cut and make into feed, for their pasture fed for life, longhorn cattle. As the grass will be used as animal feed they are hoping to keep the fields as clean as possible. Their ethos for raising beef is that their cattle live the most natural life possible, eating only home-grown grass.

Keeping our local fields and Green Belt land clean and tidy in Riddlesdown is something I am sure we would all support. However, I must say having recently been on a RRA litter pick, I was genuinely shocked by the level and type of rubbish picked up at the bottom of Dunmail Drive and the verges along Mitchley Avenue. The Association has raised the issue of litter with the Council on many occasions and will continue to do so. We now have a farmer who wants to keep the fields clean and tidy, let's all share in this objective and play our part in keeping Riddlesdown clean and tidy. Church Farm is rightly very proud of their pasture for life certification and for your information they sell their beef locally from a pop up shop monthly. For more information on Church Farm Services, please look at their website; www.churchfarmservices.co.uk

New Primary School

In my last report I mentioned that Riddlesdown Collegiate had informed parents they were considering a new, 2-form entry primary school, which could be located on or very close to the Riddlesdown Collegiate site. In April 2017, the Department for Education (DfE) announced that the new primary school had been approved to open in Croydon. The new school will be run by the Riddlesdown Collegiate Trust and will take 60 children per

year. The opening date has yet to be decided. Also the site of the new school has yet to be finalised. Originally it was intended to be co-located with Riddlesdown Collegiate. However, it has now been agreed that the school will be developed in an area of greater need for primary provision and not co-located on the Riddlesdown site. At the time of writing this article, there is nothing further to report but we understand a meeting is scheduled with the DfE in August. When we hear of further details, we will keep you posted via our website and Facebook page.

Communications

Since 1937, the RRA has produced the Riddlesdown Recorder twice a year and hand delivered to members' homes. Around 15 years ago, the Association introduced the RRA website, which I believe to be is one of the finest in Croydon and a real source of useful information. More recently we introduced our Facebook page, now with around 500 followers, and it has been a real success. Finally and not to be forgotten, we have our newly installed noticeboard, close to the shops and station. The question on communication is: how are we doing? Have we got our communication strategy right? Do you have a view? Would you like information e-mailed to you? If so, can you let us know? Please e-mail us at Riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com or write to RRA at one of the addresses, at the front of this magazine.

St Edmund's Caring Group

Finally included in this edition is an article on St Edmund's Caring Group, who have supported our local community for many years. I would urge you to read the article and please support them. Thank you.

PLANNING MATTERS

BY PHIL THOMAS

It has been a busy six months on the planning front, with some contentious applications being submitted and, in many cases, approved. To summarise, these are:

32, 42, 44 & 46 Riddlesdown Ave

As many of you will be aware from my previous reports, planning applications have been submitted for development of 3 bedroom houses to the rear gardens of these properties, fronting onto the narrow service road in Riddlesdown Rd.

All four of the applications have been put to the Council Planning Committee and have been approved. Usually, they have been approved with a Labour / Conservative split decision but this has not always been the case. Our chairman, Brian Longman has spoken at some of the Planning meetings and ours and the many residents' objections / concerns have always been dismissed! It is our opinion, that the decision taken by many Councillors has been made before the meeting and they don't listen to the arguments / objections being raised at the meeting.

At the latest committee meeting for two applications at No 32, Brian Longman spoke and again raised the RRA's serious concerns about the narrow access road, and the mixing of pedestrians and vehicles together and showed the Committee some photographs of the road. From the following discussions, the Planning Committee appeared at long last to appreciate there could be a problem with this narrow access road now that nine applications have been approved fronting onto this road. The Committee have now agreed to review

seriously the width of this road, which is only between 2.1 m to 2.4 metres wide. It only has one surface water gully for about a 300 metre length, and no street lighting. There is no separate footway for pedestrians on this side of the street. If young families utilise these new builds, there is no safety buffer of a footway if young children run out from the properties, directly into the access road and a vehicle is passing! However, it seems the Council taxpayers will have to foot the bill of any improvement works, instead of the developers!

98 Hyde Road

As I reported last time, an application was submitted (by developer Aventier) for the demolition of the existing house (located on the corner of Copthorne Rise), and for a new 4 storey building, comprising of seven, two bedroom apartments, and seven parking spaces, off Copthorne Rise.

The application was submitted to the Planning Committee in February. Despite there being 36 public objections, plus objections from the RRA and Ward Councillors, the Planning Committee voted in favour of the scheme. This is also despite the Planning Officer stating in her report that the site is in an area at high risk from surface water flooding, which would put the lower ground floor at risk of flooding! Councillors ignored this and a number of other relevant objections, including more local pressure on street parking! The committee approved the application and voted on party lines: 6 Labour for and 4 Conservatives against.



At the time of going to print, we have found out that another application for the demolition of the house and the erection of a two storey building with basement and accommodation in roof space (4 storeys again) comprising of 2 one-bedroom and 6 x two-bedroom flats: formation of associated access, and provision of 8 parking spaces, cycle storage and refuse store has been submitted on 21 August. It's the same number of bedrooms but an extra flat and parking space!

4 Rectory Park

In March, an application was submitted again by Aventier, for demolition of the existing detached house and for the erection of a two-storey building comprising 6 x two-bedroom flats, with accommodation at roof level (3 storeys), provision of associated vehicular access and provision of associated parking spaces, cycle storage and refuse store.

This application went to the main Planning Committee on 22 June. Despite many residents, the RRA and Councillor Tim Pollard objecting, it was approved by the Committee. Voting again was 6 Labour in favour and 4 Conservatives against.

122 Riddlesdown Rd

An application was submitted in early June for the demolition of the existing detached house and for the erection of a two-storey building including basement and with additional accommodation in roof space (4 storeys), comprising 2 x one-bedroom flats, 4 x three-bedroom flats and 2 x two-bedroom flats and the provision of 8 parking spaces, cycle storage and refuse store. This was the second application within a few months as the previous application was withdrawn by the applicant, because Planning Officers could not

support it due to the size and density. However, this new application has increased in density! Yet again this is another application by the developer, Aventier!

The application was submitted to the Planning Committee on 17 August, with Officers recommending in granting approval. The application was approved by the Planning Committee and again with a split: 6 Labour voting for the application and 4 Conservatives against.

This application has been approved despite 158 local objections (including two RAs, an MP and a Councillor) and only 1 supporting. This is a very large number of local objections for one application. It seems Croydon Council no longer listens to its residents! This is despite Council Leader, Cllr Tony Newman, saying on 2 August 2016 in his blog; "I'm inviting you to contact me with your priorities for how we can involve more local people in local decision making – because local people know best and I want to make your priorities our priorities."

The RRA did not speak at the Planning meeting this time but, as agreed, we left it to a local resident who would be directly affected by the development. However, we did circulate our detailed objection letter to all the Planning Committee members before the meeting. It was raised by this objector (who produced evidence) that there are restrictive covenants on the houses in Riddlesdown Rd and that the land cannot be used for flats. However, the Chair of the Committee after seeking legal advice at the meeting, said that restrictive covenants are not part of the planning process and the application continued to be heard in full.

As many of you will no doubt be aware from your deeds, the Atwood family (who owned much of the land locally) imposed many restrictive covenants on land in Riddlesdown and parts of Sanderstead. This is the reason there are no Public Houses in Riddlesdown and Sanderstead! It now means that a civil legal action will have to be taken if this route is followed by nearby residents. This could also be an interesting legal situation for the two other recent approvals for flats at 98 Hyde Rd and 4 Rectory Park!

It seems the Planning Dept. and Labour Councillors are yet again brushing off the RRA's questions as to where are the improvements in the area to the local infrastructure, i.e. primary school places, doctors, health services, dentists, bus, water, sewage, trains, roads, etc, etc! As an example, it was recently announced, the 07.46 train from Riddlesdown to London Bridge was the most crowded train in England and Wales, in the autumn of 2016!

New Flats

So why is Riddlesdown (and other parts in the south of the Borough) suddenly getting all these planning applications to demolish detached houses and build new flats? The reason is probably that the coalition Government (Minister; Greg Clarke) changed the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) in 2012.

It was stated by him then, that "our reforms to planning policy have three fundamental objectives:

- To put unprecedented power in the hands of communities to shape the places in which they live;
- To better support growth to give the next

generation the chance that our generation has had to have a decent home, and to allow the jobs to be created on which our prosperity depends; and

- To ensure that the places we cherish - our countryside, towns and cities - are bequeathed to the next generation in a better condition than they are now."

The NPPF sets out a presumption in favour of sustainable development, requiring that development which accords with an up-to-date Local Plan should be approved without delay. Croydon has a Local Plan and the new proposed Plan is currently being considered by the Planning Inspector (see report below). The intention of that government was to make more housing affordable for most, especially the younger generation. This is usually done, by building flats. There is also more profits in flats for developers rather than small houses on the same site.

The coalition Government also wanted to simplify and speed up the planning process. It was also made clear by the Minister at that time that relevant policies - such as those protecting the Green Belt, Sites of Special Scientific Interest, National Parks and other areas - cannot be overridden by the presumption. So the Green Belt land in our area should be safe.

In addition the Government, in February 2017, also published a white paper on Housing (fixing our broken housing market) and their determination to build more homes. The Prime Minister Theresa May stated: "I want to fix this broken market so that housing is more affordable and people have the security they need to plan for the future." For private developers, the Government is offering a planning framework that is more supportive



of higher levels of development, with quicker and more effective processing and determination of planning applications, and is exploring an improved approach to developer contributions. Croydon's Planning Department have also gone along with this Government policy, which basically goes along with the basis of the current Croydon Plan.

In Riddlesdown, I think there is an inevitability that there will be more re-development of detached houses for flats, which is as much down to market forces in London as it is to Government planning policy. In fact, the former is definitely driving the latter!

We also probably have to accept that the growing population means that more homes are needed, but this needs to be done in an appropriate way which doesn't have a detrimental impact on the residential environment. Central Government and Local Authorities must also ensure that all the necessary infrastructure is in place to accommodate this additional population growth. Unfortunately the Government is part of the problem in that it sets challenging objectives but then doesn't provide Councils with the tools, or advice on how to build sustainable homes. But equally, when the RRA and residents make valid objections, a good planning authority should address these concerns when considering this type of housing applications!

48 Mitchley Ave

I reported last time about this planning refusal by the Council and that it had been appealed to the Planning Inspector. This involved a new two storey side extension; alterations to land levels and formation of parking area at the front. In late January, the Planning Inspector allowed the appeal and building works have now commenced.

Purley Town Centre – 17 Storey Tower Building

Slightly further afield, the 17-storey building in Purley town centre was approved by the Planning Committee in December 2016. The application is for the demolition of existing buildings on the two sites. On the island site, the proposal is to erect a 3 to 17-storey building with basements, comprising 114 flats (1, 2 & 3 bedroom), plus a community and multi-purpose church space, and a retail unit. There is to be 78 car parking spaces for this site (50 for the church/community users and 28 for the residential units, 11 of which will be set aside for Blue Badge holders). On the south site, the application is for the erection of a 3 to 8-storey building comprising 106 residential units (again 1, 2 & 3 bedroom) with vehicular access and service bay off Banstead Road. This was despite there being thousands of public objections and objections from seven local Residents Associations.

After the Council's decision, the seven RAs did write to our MP Chris Philp and we suggested to him that he might consider asking the Secretary of State to "call in" this decision. We gave Chris our reasons why we considered this should be done. Chris did ask and, on 18 April, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced the Council's decision had been "called in". This is a very rare action by a Government minister. There will now be a Public Inquiry into this development when all sides can make their presentations and we understand this Inquiry will be sometime in January 2018. Watch our website and Facebook page for the dates.

The Croydon Plan

Croydon Council completed the process of preparing their final Croydon Local Plan (CLP) and this was submitted to the Secretary of State earlier in the year.

As required, the Council's Local Plan is then examined in detail by a Planning Inspector. Public hearings for this commenced on 16 May 2017 and many representations were made to the Inspector on various aspects of the Plan. The Inspector appeared to be very thorough and asked many questions to the Council. The Plan also included a proposal to locate a Gypsy & Travellers' site on the current Purley Oaks Highways Depot, behind the Purley Oaks Household & Recycling Centre, in Riddlesdown Rd. Many residents have been

asking us what is happening about this proposed development. The site was first mooted by the Council (without any previous consultation) in the revised Croydon Plan. This Plan is still being considered by a Planning Inspector following the public hearings in May. The Inspector's report is expected later in the year. If he agrees to the Council's view that it is acceptable, then a full planning application will have to be submitted by the relevant Council Department to the Planning Department. Residents can then send their comments to the Planning Department!

However, the Planning Inspector may have other views and we need to wait for his final decision / report!

<None>

St Edmund's Church

Riddlesdown's Anglican Church at the Heart of the Community

Part of the Parish of Sanderstead

Sunday Services:

8am service every Sunday. 10am Sunday services are shared with St Antony's, Hamsey Green. Please see notices and website for details.

Fortcoming Special Services:

15 Oct.17 - 11.00 at St Antony's Hamsey Green – Harvest Festival Service followed by a bring and share lunch

12 Nov 17 - 16.00 at St Edmund's Riddlesdown – Parish Memorial Service in memory of all those departed in the last 12 months – Contact Susan (details below) to remember someone by name at the service and light a candle

19 Nov 17 - 10.00 at St Edmund's Riddlesdown – St Edmund's Patronal Festival
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ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

BY PHIL THOMAS

Litter Pick in Riddlesdown

Following on from the success of the previous litter pick in November, I organised another event in April. We again covered the private woodland and farmland near to Dunmail Drive, Mitchley Hill, Rectory Park and Mitchley Ave. There was another great turnout with about 40 adults, children, beavers, cubs, and one scout! We collected about 40 bags of litter, bottles, cans, metal and plastics. It is amazing how much rubbish is collected locally in just an hour!

Again a big thank you from the RRA, to all who took part and to Tracey Bellamy from the Council for supplying all the materials and having the rubbish removed. Thank you as well, to the 19th Purley scout group for supplying a well-earned cup of tea in the scout hut facilities afterwards. The next litter pick will probably be in November! So please keep an eye out on Facebook, local noticeboards and the website for this date. We will in future try and hold two litter picks per year, sometime during April and November. If anyone is interested in becoming a "street champion" and keeping other parts of Riddlesdown tidy, then please e-mail us at: Riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com and we will put you in touch with Tracey.

Mitchley Ave/Rectory Park

There have been at least six motor accidents since last November, on the sharp bend at Rectory Park/Mitchley Ave. Virtually all the accidents have involved vehicles coming down Rectory Park and losing control on, or just after the bend. One accident did involve an

accident in the opposite direction because of a parked car outside the houses near to the bend! Collisions have resulted in the new street lamp columns being hit, as well as one vehicle ending up against a tree in the woodland. There has also been another accident where a vehicle has gone across the oncoming traffic and taken out the telegraph pole on the opposite side of the road. All the accidents have been when the road is wet! It has been sheer luck, that to date, no pedestrian has been killed, or seriously injured. Many children walk along this section of street during the school morning and afternoon times.

As a result of the incident in November, the RRA had extensive correspondence with Council Officers (copying in local Councillors and Cllr Stuart King the Labour Cabinet Member responsible for Transport and Environment) and also Riddlesdown Collegiate.

The RRA made a number of suggestions to Officers, which included improving the road signage, laying an anti-skid road surface, installing an Armco barrier to protect pedestrians, additional chevron boards, relocating the lamp columns and additional road markings. The Council Officer initially rejected virtually all our suggestions! They did say they had made a number of additional safety measures at this bend over the years. They included: another "SLOW" road marking just before the bend, and installing white marked dragon's teeth on the road, to highlight the danger ahead. The Council felt that by installing a crash barrier it would hinder

pedestrians crossing at this point! However, following another accident in July we wrote again to the Council highlighting the issues when this road is wet. We are pleased to report that we have now been told that an anti-skid surface will be laid on the bend in October.

In view of the poor condition of the road surfaces, the Council were looking to resurface both Rectory Park and Mitchley Ave but we have been told the possible funding by TfL has been rejected. So we will have to put up with further patching!

We still continue to raise with the Council the issue of the missing the speed camera further along in Mitchley Ave (near the shops). Safety cameras are controlled and maintained by the London Safety Camera Partnership (LSCP), which is made up of Transport for London (TfL), the Metropolitan Police and Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS). The Council have no direct control over this camera but are trying to establish from the LSCP, if and when it is to be replaced.

20 mph speed limits in all of Croydon Borough

As many of you will no doubt be aware, Croydon Council's Traffic Management Committee on 9 May 2017 agreed to implement 20 mph speed limits to all residential side streets in Areas 3, 4 & 5 in Croydon despite many objections from the public (Riddlesdown is in Area 5). Officers recommended approval in their report to Councillors and the Labour Councillors agreed with the Officers. The Conservatives voted against the implementation of the scheme.

This means 30 mph (or 40 mph on some sections of the A23) will only apply to most

Class A or Class B roads (where most accidents and injuries/fatalities occur). In the Riddlesdown area, this will be 30 mph on the A2022 (Downs Court Rd, Mitchley Ave and Rectory Park) only. All other streets in our area will be 20 mph. The Council did say that bus routes would remain at 30 mph, yet Purley Downs Rd is to be 20 mph, which could have an effect on this bus timetable.

In total, 3,357 people objected, (with 103 in favour) and in a combined total, there were 18,862 objections with the various reasons why the scheme shouldn't be implemented. The "in favour vote" was low because the Council said it was a presumption in favour of the scheme, unless they received many objections. However, they would not give a figure as to how many objections they would accept.

No mention was made in the report about the way the consultation process was undertaken, with residents unable to either support or object to the scheme; i.e. a vote, which the seven southern RAs had raised with the Council and no mention was made of the local Councillor objections.

The Conservatives did have the Traffic Management Committee decision "called in" on the grounds that the consultation process was not democratic, and requested that the Council act on what residents had said in their objections. This was put to the Scrutiny Committee in May but it was rejected by that Committee.

At the time of writing this report, we believe a local independent motoring group may have started legal proceedings into the consultation process. However, if the scheme goes ahead, it is expected all areas will be covered by 20 mph before May 2018, unless the legal

proceedings delay this. Some motorists currently speed well above the 30 mph limit and it remains to be seen if some 20 mph signs will result in lower traffic speeds on our residential streets! It will also be interesting to see how vigorously the Police enforce the new 20 mph limits!

Proposed change of times for Riddlesdown Collegiate

For those who have children that go to Riddlesdown Collegiate, you will be aware they have consulted parents and staff to changes for the times of the school day. The RRA and local residents were not made aware of these changes until after the consultation had started.

We took this up with Soumick Dey, the Principal and he responded:

“In terms of the Collegiate day, the key features are that from September 2017: (the school times will be);

Monday, Wednesday, Friday: 8.30am – 2.40pm

Tuesday, Thursday: 8.30am – 3.30pm

The vast majority of our students are on site before 8.30am already, so formalising this start time should not make a significant difference to travel arrangements or road conditions. Meanwhile, TfL has indicated that their planning team will reflect these changes when reconsidering schedules for the autumn. I hope that these changes will not cause inconvenience to our neighbours but wanted to make sure that you were informed – apologies again that you had not received this information sooner.”

It obviously remains to be seen if TfL come up with the bus timetable changes in September, especially for the 612 (school service) and the 412! These changes will have an impact on local residents, as we know many people

deliberately avoid the 412 buses in late afternoon, as so many children are on the buses.

We are also aware the Collegiate won't be allowing pupils into the school grounds before 8am. This could condense the traffic/pupil movement into a 30 to 40 minute period in the mornings from September! We quote Soumick Dey on this; *“Parents will recall that during the recent consultation about proposed changes to the Collegiate Day from September 2017 (which have since been approved), I shared one of my concerns about some students arriving very early at school (sometimes as early as 7.00am) and consequently being unsupervised for a long time before the school day starts. It was for this reason that the suggestion of starting at 8.30am was sensible - in reality, the vast majority of students are already on site by this time. However, I remain concerned about some students arriving much earlier. Therefore, from 10th July 2017, the Collegiate site will not be open for students to access until 8.00am. This is when the breakfast service begins in The Diner and is also when the Library opens. The playgrounds are formally supervised 15 minutes before the start of the school day. I am grateful for your understanding and support with this issue - it is ultimately to promote students' safety and a positive start to the day.”*

I have raised this issue with Soumick Dey, with pupils possibly hanging around in Dunmail Drive and Honister Heights before the gates open and he has advised me that it will be assessed during the autumn term.

Croydon Council Ward Boundary and Parliamentary Constituency Changes

The Local Government Boundary Commission England (LGBCE) have been reviewing all the Council Ward boundaries in Croydon. Following public consultation the review was published in early July. In the review it was proposed for Riddlesdown, that the Sanderstead Ward boundary was made smaller and a new Ward be formed from the Purley Ward, to create a new Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown Ward (PO&R). Basically any street in Riddlesdown on the east side of Copthorne Rise will remain in the Sanderstead Ward and any streets west of Copthorne Rise will transfer into the new PO&R ward. This includes all the streets on the south side of Mitchley Ave leading up to and including the Collegiate (Ingleboro, Buttermere, Derwent, Honister, Grisedale etc). The only exception to this will be the top end numbers of Downs Court Rd (south of Mitchley Ave) and also Cranford Close which will remain in the new Purley (and Woodcote) Ward.

The new Sanderstead Ward will still have three councillors but the PO&R Ward will only have two councillors. Purley & Woodcote will also have three councillors. Overall, there are a number of changes in other areas and in particular to the central Croydon/Addiscombe area.

The draft Order provides for the new electoral arrangements to come into force at the next Council elections on 3 May 2018, subject to approval by Parliament. There is more information available on our website about this.

However, this review is not to be confused with the Boundary Commission for England

(BCE) publication and consultation on initial proposals for new Parliamentary boundary changes which is happening as well. The BCE received nearly 20,000 responses to the consultation. The next stage of the 2018 Review is to publish all the representations so that others may comment on them. This review is suggesting that the Purley Ward is moved into Croydon Central Constituency from the Croydon South Constituency. However, we have been told that this review will not take into account any decision the LGBCE have made on the local Ward boundary changes! So all in all it could be a confusing situation.

The final report from the BCE is expected to be available towards the end of 2017, or in early 2018.

Land in Dunmail Drive

We understand that the plot of land in Dunmail Drive (r/o 36 - 60 Honister Heights) and opposite Riddlesdown Collegiate gates was sold at a Barnard Marcus Auction on 10 April 2017 for £110,000. The land was purchased for £148,000 in June 2014. The land is Green Belt and was also subject to a Planning Inspector's decision to dismiss the appeal for the building of four detached houses in 2013. We currently do not know who the new owners are. If anyone does, could you please let us know.

Farmland in Mitchley Ave & Rectory Park

As some residents may have noticed, the local farmer (Church Farm Services) who have taken on the tenancy of the fields in Mitchley Ave and Rectory Park/Mitchley Hill have ploughed the farmland in preparation for sowing, "for long term grass leys this autumn

and to cut it for hay and haylage next summer” (Brian Longman has mentioned this in his Chairman’s report).

A number of residents contacted the RRA to say that Public Footpaths have been ploughed and in some places are uneven. This is particularly so, on the Public Footpath 190 between Mitchley Ave (opposite shops) and Derwent Drive. However since the initial ploughing the land has now been levelled.

So what does the law state and what do farmers/landowners have to do?

- In England and Wales, those that own or maintain the land are required to keep public rights of way “open and useable”.

This means:

- To provide and maintain stiles and gates, keeping them safe and easy to use.
- Cut back overhanging vegetation that may obstruct the route – at least 3m of headroom is required on bridleways.
- Ensure field-edge paths are not cultivated for the legal minimum width of 1.5m for a public footpath and 3m for a public bridleway.
- Reinstate cross-field paths correctly

Can Farmers plough up across Public Footpaths?

Yes, they can disturb a path surface when ploughing or cultivating the field, but if they do, they must make good the path surface within 14 days of the first disturbance if a crop is being sown, or within 24 hours in other cases. The surface must be returned to at least the minimum width, which is 1m for cross-field footpaths and 2m for bridleways. Signs should be used to show the route of any reinstated path.

Can field-edge paths be cultivated?

No. A minimum width of 1.5m for field-edge footpaths and 3m for field-edge bridleways must be respected.”

We have noted the farmer has ploughed up to and across the line of the Public Footpath 190 from Mitchley Ave (opposite shops) to Derwent Drive on the field edge. The problem with this Public Footpath is that because all the bramble/ shrub vegetation has been allowed to grow behind the houses, the path has been allowed to become established some metres away from the true line (and the sign post on Mitchley Ave) and it has encroached into the farmer’s field. At the time of writing this report, Brian Longman has spoken to the farmer a number of times and they have rectified this and the land is now rolled and level. It does need the Public Footpaths to be re-established on the field edges when the crops grow.

It is also needs to be made clear that the Public Footpath (190) that runs from Mitchley Ave (opposite the shops) up to Derwent Drive (which comes out beside houses Nos 37/39) is the correct Public Footpath. The Public Footpath (130) that runs from the end of Grisedale Gardens (beside the end house - No 31) should really cross the field and connect to the Public Footpath that runs beside the Doctors’ Surgery in Mitchley Ave (No 116), up to Dunmail Drive. However this path isn’t properly established and is rarely used!

The photo below (reproduced from the Ordnance Survey map) gives a clear indication of the Public Footpaths over this land. The thick green pecked lines are the Public Footpaths. The footpath between Derwent Drive and Grisedale Gardens that runs along



the edge of the field and behind the houses in Grisedale Gardens (shown in thinner black pecked line) is not a Public Footpath but a permissive path.

The farmer has erected gate behind the “car parking” area in Mitchley Ave. We have been asked if this is allowed. Yes, a farmer is perfectly entitled to gate a field and fence it (at a sensible height). There is no Public Footpath entrance at this point. As long as the Public Footpaths are accessible, this is allowed.

What the farmer is trying to do, is make people walk on the Public Footpaths, rather than across the fields and his crops! Basically please keep to the Public Footpaths, which are on both sides of this Mitchley Ave field. We have been requested by a number of residents for us to contact the Collegiate for them to tell the pupils to stop walking across the farmer’s crops and use the Public Footpaths. We have written to Soumick Dey to ask for his co-operation in doing this.

GP Hubs in Croydon

As many of you will probably be aware, since 1 April 2017, there are three new GP hubs in the Borough of Croydon which are located at: Purley War Memorial Hospital; Parkway

Health Centre, New Addington; and East Croydon Medical Centre, 59 Addiscombe Rd, Croydon. These GP hubs have replaced the former Minor Injuries Units. The seven Residents’ Associations in the south of the Borough have continued to have on-going discussions about performance of these GP hubs and we had a constructive meeting with the Croydon CCG in early July about the operation of these hubs.

The GP hubs are now open from 8 am to 8 pm for 365 days a year. Patients should in the first instance telephone 111 to make an appointment to see a GP. However, walk-in patients will be seen but you may have to wait longer. These hubs are not a replacement for attending your GP surgery but are intended to be used if your surgery is closed, or you can’t get an urgent appointment at your surgery. They are also for urgent minor injuries.

Minor injuries can be classed as:
 Urinary tract infections, earache, sore throats, headaches and rashes/ Bruises, strains and sprains/ Superficial burns and scalds/ Care of minor accidental wounds, including closure/ Bites and stings/ Minor head and limb injuries/ Minor skin and tissue infections/ Removal of foreign bodies from eyes, ears and noses/ Emergency contraception.

The former Edridge Rd Walk-In Centre in central Croydon has now closed (some health clinics are still there) and is replaced by the GP hub at 59 Addiscombe Rd. This is about a 5 minute walk from East Croydon Station/tram/bus terminus.

If you, or any member of your family, are in need of urgent minor medical treatment, there is now more detail about where you can be seen on the new Croydon GP hub website; <http://www.croydongphub.co.uk/>

Buttermere Gardens, Derwent Drive, Grisedale Gardens and Grisedale Close

Information appeared in the Council's official notices in the Croydon Guardian on 10 August, that the above roads would have parking restrictions and one-way working for 32 weeks from 4 September. This is to allow Southern Gas Networks (SGN) to carry out gas main renewal and connections to properties in these streets. As well as disruption to residents, this will obviously also have an impact on the Collegiate traffic for the one-way working! We have sought clarification from the Council about the start timing of these works (in conjunction with the Collegiate starting back from summer holiday) and at the time of writing our report in mid-August, we still do not have full information about start dates but we understand from the Council that the works will not now start until 9 October. This is due to SGN not having the correct work permits in place. We will update more about the dates on our website, local noticeboards and Facebook page.

Riddlesdown has a new notice board!

The RRA have a new notice board in Riddlesdown and many thanks go to Croydon Council and the Sanderstead Ward Councillors (Cllr Yvette Hopley) for providing the funds from their community budget, to allow the RRA to purchase this notice board. Thanks also go to Steve Iles, Director of Streets at the Council for coordinating the works.

The board was erected free of charge in April, by the Kier Group, (Croydon Council's Highways Contractor) and the RRA are

grateful to them as well, for this kind gesture. The board was manufactured by Hallmark, in South Croydon.

The notice board is located on the green opposite the shops in Lower Barn Rd and near to the footpath to and from the downside Station platform. The board is for all Riddlesdown residents / groups use, but please, no notices advertising goods for sale, or any services offering work. The photo is of RRA Chairman, Brian Longman receiving the keys from Stephen Murphy of Kier.

The RRA's other notice boards are located by the Pharmacy in Lower Barn Rd, on the side wall of St Edmund's Church, and by the K&K store in Mitchley Ave. We are hoping to have the notice board on the green beside St Edmund's Church (Lower Barn Rd) back soon!



REMEMBER Litter Pick

11 November from 2pm
at Mithley Hill/Dunmail Drive

RRA AGM

11th April 2018 7.30pm
St Edmund's Church



MEMBERSHIP

BY JOHN RAPP

Twice a year I write a membership article. It is easier in summer when so many people are sharing their news. The Committee have organised workshops so that residents can discuss and suggest how they would like Riddlesdown to be in twenty years time. One strength of Riddlesdown is that it is a good family area and I have heard that a number of our young people are thinking about taking their next step. Some are planning for

university and other higher education, others have decided to find employment. Some have done some work to provide funds for university, and one young lady is proudly wearing the kit of Crystal Palace Ladies.

I hope those who have recently left school enjoy success, and confirm that you are welcome to write about the new events you experience.

TRANSPORT

BY JOHN RAPP

Last time I wrote about the poor travelling experiences of many of our residents.

I am continuing to monitor the bus service, and can confirm that the mid-March 2017 extra resources applied to the 412 route continue to ensure a good service. When I attended the future of Riddlesdown workshop, I heard that previous poor service is ingrained in people's memories. Hopefully more experience of a good service will put those memories into the past.

One area of concern is the closure of bus stops (for roadworks and other events) without a temporary stop being made available. Please contact Transport for London directly whenever that action causes you difficulties.

The train service does remain a concern, but we are approaching better times, with more resources becoming available from May 2018 – when the timetable will be totally re-cast. Writing the new timetable has proved a challenge with the first draft having to be abandoned – due to capacity problems in the Croydon, Selhurst and Norwood Junction Triangle. We have given Govia Thameslink Railway comments on their new intended timetable. The late start on Sunday (08:18 southbound – 08:49 northbound) with an hour gap before half-hourly services start has been specifically mentioned.

With so much happening your Committee has allocated Keith Powell and I to look after transport. You are welcome to contact either of us with concerns or to tap into our knowledge.

Riddlesdown Residents' Association

Children's Christmas Party!

*Party Games, Magic Show, Party Tea, Disco
and More!*

2nd December 2-4pm

St Edmund's Church Hall, Mitchley
Avenue

Bring your children, grandchildren,
nephews or nieces!

Admission is *FREE* but spaces are limited.

To book a place or for enquiries:

Email: eventsRRA@gmail.com

Phone or Text: 07874682852



Find us on Facebook or www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS & ARTICLES

Thank you to all the RRA Committee for their contributions – we now have your contributions, information, articles, letters and photographs on the following pages.

What will Riddesdown look like in 2036?:

Planning Workshop Feedback Nick Tennant

In the last issue of the Recorder, I wrote a think-piece speculating about how Riddesdown might look like by 2036, and more importantly, inviting your views on what kind of Riddesdown you wanted. My reason for writing the article was the publication of the draft Croydon Plan. The current Croydon Plan requires a minimum of 20,200 new homes to be built over the period 2011-2031. It proposed the building of 31,850 new homes in Croydon over the period 2016 to 2036 - a 48% increase in the number of homes required in the Borough each year. This included between 310 - 2070 new homes in Purley over the same twenty-year period.

At the Riddesdown Residents' Association AGM on 5 May, we asked attendees whether there was any interest in us running a planning workshop to understand better the community's concerns regarding future development in Riddesdown. We explained that our ambition is to produce a Supplementary Planning Document, which sets out our community's vision of future development in Riddesdown. The intention is that this document will influence where and how new development occurs.

Determining the issues of greatest concern to Riddesdown's residents is crucial to the success of any Supplementary Planning Document. We have to be realistic in terms of

the objectives of a plan for Riddesdown. If we try to do too much, its unlikely we'll have any impact. Whereas if we focus on those issues that people are most concerned about, we have a much better chance of making a difference.

Riddesdown Workshop

Following positive feedback at the AGM, we subsequently held a workshop at Riddesdown Collegiate on the evening of Monday 10 July. Despite the splendid summer weather, 40 people joined us to consider current and future planning issues under the following themes: housing, transport, environment and community facilities.

The evening began with four 15-minute workshops based upon the themes of housing, transport, environment and community. After the workshops, we used a 'heatmap' to allow people to reflect upon the discussions by sticking post-it notes on a map to show which were the issues that they most cared about. The points raised are summarised below.

Workshop Feedback

Housing

- There was a broad preference for new housing over flatted development, as this was felt to be more in keeping with the existing housing stock in Riddesdown. Specific concerns were raised over the current trend of demolishing family homes to build flats.
- Recent flatted development was felt to be in keeping with the local style and size of

development. For example, the scheme opposite Riddlesdown station was generally liked, although the promised infrastructure to address flooding issues has not been provided.

- In terms of future development, attendees felt that the focus should be on affordability across a range of groups and ages, for example purpose-built retirement flats and two-bedroom 'starter homes'. In addition, density guidelines should be reinforced as recent development in the area is too large in terms of scale and size.
- It was recognised that development brings particular pressures on parking, so perhaps new developments should include basement parking.
- The need for additional infrastructure investment to support development was highlighted, particularly in respect to flooding, parking and public realm improvements.
- There was a feeling that development should not be developer-led. Local residents need to be pro-active in suggesting/promoting locations to encourage developers to focus their efforts there.

Environment

- During discussion of the green belt, the majority of views were strongly against any development of the green belt. A few comments were made that specific areas of the green belt could be suitable for development for new housing or a new primary school.
- The green verges around Riddlesdown were felt to be poorly maintained (overgrown grass or bare patches) and badly damaged, partly due to too much

parking. Attendees commented that shrubbery was often too tall in many places and was blocking sightlines on driveways, for example Ingleboro Drive. Linked to this, overgrown vegetation on footpaths (especially private footpaths near the Common) needs to be cut back. The idea of a working group was floated to address these issues and create a sense of community spirit.

- Flooding by Riddlesdown Station and St Edmund's Church was felt to be partly due to the greater number of hardstanding front gardens leading to more water surface run off.
- There were mixed views on whether fly-tipping has increased locally since nearby local authorities started to charge for waste.
- Concern was expressed regarding the amount of litter around Riddlesdown. One particular issue raised was that Riddlesdown Collegiate students were considered to be generating too much rubbish (e.g. bottles, cans, crisp bags) during term time, especially on Dunmail Drive. Attendees felt that the Collegiate should do more to safeguard the local environment, working with the local community to clean up litter, including getting involved in litter picks. Some attendees raised the need for more Council highway bins around Riddlesdown, especially on the Common where there are only dog-waste bins.
- In respect to the Purley Oaks Recycling centre, the new layout was felt to be an improvement although access was still poor, with too much queuing traffic. Some suggested enlarging the Centre to improve recycling capacity.
- Whilst Riddlesdown Common was

considered to be well-managed by the Corporation of London, there was a perception that it is not used enough and could be more child-friendly. There was strong support for a tea room and toilets. Other options include an adventure playground, trim trail (like Happy Valley), more benches, seats and picnic areas. Some expressed concerns that the Common is over-managed for cattle/sheep. There were split views over dogs, with some believing that there are too many nuisance dogs roaming and that there should be designated areas for dog walkers, whereas others were happy with the status quo.

Transport

- There was a general belief that Riddlesdown is currently well-served in respect to public transport given the size of the local community.
 - Parking was felt to be the most pressing problem. Parking along Lower Barn Road and Riddlesdown Avenue was reported to be very difficult at peak hours, with the amount of construction on the latter road exacerbating the issue. Riddlesdown is the last Zone 6 stop on the East Grinstead line, some believed that this encouraged commuters to drive to the area and park around the station. Mixed views on solutions – controlled parking zones could just lead to displacement of the problem to adjoining roads.
 - The traffic and parking congestion around Riddlesdown Collegiate is felt to be getting worse; the potential use of Dunmail Drive as an access road was frequently mentioned.
- Possible options include the creation of a Controlled Parking Zone (CPZ), the introduction of residents' parking permits, using gates to open Dunmail Drive periodically (i.e. during pick up/ drop off times) and encouraging more students to walk to the school.
- Trains are felt to be full to capacity, although it was noted that some relief might be provided by the East Grinstead to London Bridge services transferring to Thameslink in 2018, enabling direct services from Riddlesdown to Bedford and Cambridge. Notwithstanding the ongoing issues with Southern, people are generally satisfied with the level of proposed service, with BR Purley serving as a back-up when the East Grinstead line experiences problems.
 - Buses (especially the 412) were considered to be too infrequent, with more services required during school travel hours. It was noted that the 412 often stops (i.e. turns around) at Sanderstead Pond. The idea of a shuttle bus between the Riddlesdown Station and the Collegiate was proposed as a means of reducing the number of short car journeys and providing a service to the station for people living near to the school.
 - There was some support for the 20mph zones being brought forward by the Council, with concern expressed that roads like Riddlesdown Road are being treated as a drag strip. Set against this, others were concerned that the 20mph limit will only increase pollution, especially diesel exhaust. The repair of potholes by the Council was slow, and temporary repairs like those on Ingleboro Drive are a false economy.

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Community facilities

- Shops and other existing amenities were perceived to be very important to the community. There is a strong desire to protect existing community shops. Commuter parking is preventing some people from accessing these facilities.
- The need for a social focus like a pub was recognised, with consideration of other options like the St Edmund's community hall or Purley Bury tennis club bar. Similarly, ideas like a café, tea shop or club house were floated, with comparisons drawn to the facilities at Whyteleafe Park and the previous tea room that existed behind the Ranger's cottage on Riddlesdown Common. There was interest in a community run enterprise on the line of Priscilla's Tea Room at Sanderstead.
- Support for a new playground either on the Common near the car park or on the green space adjoining St. Edmund's church, or opposite the shops on Lower Barn Road.
- General satisfaction with the current level of healthcare provision, with particular praise for the local GP. Linked to this, recognition of the importance of protecting and maintaining the local Chemists on Lower Barn Road. No particular interest expressed in creating service 'hubs' in future, although no one was actively opposed to the idea. Recognition that with an ageing population, access to healthcare facilities would remain an important issue, and that an elderly people's community facility should be considered.
- No concerns with secondary school provision in the area, notwithstanding the points already raised concerning litter and access to the Collegiate. Primary school

provision was raised as an issue as Riddlesdown is situated between four catchment zones. Parents of younger children reported that securing places at preferred schools is becoming increasingly problematic. Opinion was divided as to whether a new primary school in Riddlesdown is the answer, with some supporting the expansion of nearby existing primary schools.

- Lack of awareness of how many community activities are already provided locally, with many expressing a desire for information to be made more widely available. It was felt that Riddlesdown Collegiate could do more to make its facilities available to the community, linked to using the school more as a community resource.
- Additional thoughts on community events included restarting the Riddlesdown Fun Day, street parties, community schemes like the Purley Breakfast Club (i.e. a once-a-month gathering as a way of bringing people together to socialise) and creating more opportunities for elderly residents to socialise. Linked to this, there is a need for more regular information on what is going on locally, possibly a RRA monthly email.

Heatmap Feedback

After the workshops, we used a 'heatmap' to allow people to reflect upon the discussions by sticking post-it notes on a map to show which were the issues that they most cared about. This is important as we have to be realistic in terms of the number of objectives of a plan for Riddlesdown. The nine most mentioned themes of the 'heatmap' were:

- Making the most of our green space. For example, improved footpaths and a cafe on Riddlesdown Common.



- Litter control - more rubbish bins and working with Riddlesdown Collegiate to educate pupils on caring for the environment.
 - Parking controls around Riddlesdown Station.
 - Improving the traffic flow around Riddlesdown Collegiate at peak hours.
 - Our community should be pro-active about new development – setting out what we want to see in terms of the location, design and type of housing.
 - New housing should be aimed at local people - retirement homes, starter homes etc
 - New housing needs to be accompanied by additional infrastructure in terms of roads, flooding, adequate car parking, public realm improvements etc
 - Community cafe – providing a meeting place for the community.
 - Encourage more use of our local amenities. For example, Wesson’s shop, the pharmacy
- We’d like to thank all of you who joined us on the 10th July for a stimulating and wide-ranging discussion of the type of Riddlesdown you want to see in future. You gave us some clear messages, but before we start to draft a Riddlesdown Plan to share with you all, we’d really welcome any additional thoughts from all of you reading this. Do you agree with the themes emerging above? If not, why not? Are there other issues that you think we should be looking at? Please feel free to post your thoughts on the RRA Facebook page or email them to us at Riddlesdownresidents@gmail.com

Tip Top Hair

100 Lower Barn Road, Purley
(opposite Riddlesdown Station)

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St Edmund's Care Group

Richard Ragg

For many years St Edmund's Care Group has supported the local community of Riddlesdown through offering a transport and befriending service to local residents. During this time hundreds of residents have used our services, and many others have volunteered as drivers or in other roles. The Care Group offers a door-to-door transport service, using the cars of volunteers, to residents who are unable to access their own transport or public transport because of age, illness or other disability. The range of transport trips we undertake includes shopping, doctors' appointments and hospital visits. Befriending visits to people in their own homes also include a range of activities such as reading to an elderly blind person. Many of the people we have supported have said that our service has enabled them to live in their own homes for longer and reduced their isolation and loneliness.

People access the service through a single telephone number; when the telephone is not staffed there is an answer phone service. It is helpful if people can provide several days' notice of the need for transport for this makes it easier to find a volunteer driver. There is no charge for using this service because it is funded from a very small Croydon Council grant, support from St Edmund's Church and donations.

We would like more Riddlesdown residents to use the services of St. Edmund's Care Group as, however much we publicise our service, there are still many local people who are unaware of what we provide but may benefit from what is offered. If you believe you are eligible for our transport and befriending

services, or you know of a relative, neighbour or friend who would please contact the people below who will be more than happy to discuss your request and how best to meet this need.

Penny Hinton [REDACTED]

Richard Wragg [REDACTED]

The telephone number to make a request to St Edmund's Care Group is 020 8651 9442

Volunteers

To ensure we can continue to provide a full service to meet the needs of residents we urgently need more volunteers now. Many of our existing volunteers are becoming elderly themselves and are finding it increasingly difficult to continue driving. In fact, many of the current users of our services were themselves volunteers when they were younger. Please consider becoming a volunteer, you will need to be able to drive and have access to a car. The average transport trip lasts between one and two hours, but occasionally a trip to Croydon University Hospital will be longer. Petrol and parking costs are reimbursed by the Care Group. You can give as much or as little time as you can to volunteering activities. Some people volunteer for one duty a month, others for one a week and some for two or more trips a week. It is also up to volunteers when they wish to volunteer, so being a volunteer is not onerous. Volunteers enjoy meeting other members of the community and find it very rewarding. If you would like to discuss becoming a volunteer please speak to Penny or Richard whose telephone numbers are above. The need for more volunteers is urgent so please contact us soon.



Bees for Riddlesdown

Brian Mason

I have with dismay watched over the past few years at the decline in the number of bees in my garden. It is widely believed that this is due to pesticide exposure, particularly neonicotinoid pesticides. This is not the only reason for the decline of bees in the environment, there is also a contribution from the loss of habitat and the reduction in the number of bee friendly plants in the general environment and countryside.

Why does it matter? It matters because bees along with other insects are great pollinators, and have a key role in producing the food that we eat. Bumble bees, in particular, help pollinate wild flowers and without them these flowers would not reproduce. This in turn affects the entire food chain as the wild plants are themselves part of the complex food chain that produces the food we eat.

There are two main types of bee, the bumble bee and the honey bee. In the main, bumble bees nest and exist in a wild environment and honey bees are farmed in hives. Bumble bees nest in the wild with nest sizes of up to 300 whilst hives are host for up to 20,000 honey bees.

Here are three ways you can help the bumblebee:-

You can sign the Greenpeace petition at <http://sos-bees.org/causes/> (This link is now on the website so signing it is easier than ever -- just click on the link on our website).

You can become a member of the Bumblebee Conservation Trust for just £1.00 per month. (The RRA is now a member of the Trust).

You can manage your garden in a bumblebee friendly fashion and so help bumblebees in the local environment. This is achieved by having a bee friendly garden with flowers that bees can access from spring to late summer. Early spring is the time when queen bees are establishing new nests. The life cycle then continues until late summer when the queen bees start fattening up for hibernation. To help Riddlesdown become a more bee friendly environment please try to have at least two types of flowering plants in your garden from spring to late summer. You may visit your garden centre to get suitable plants to sustain the life cycle for the bumblebee.

How else can I help?

The RRA would also like to encourage the honey bee in the Riddlesdown area by encouraging the development of bees hives in the gardens of members and residents in Riddlesdown. Clearly some degree of expertise is required in keeping bees. The RRA is actively exploring how it can increase the number of bees in the local environment. One option being considered is to offer a subsidy to bee-keepers for hosting hives in their gardens. The RRA is interested to hear from established bee-keepers or would-be bee-keepers who may be interested in the subsidy scheme. In the first instance, interested members or hosts should contact a member of the committee.

Acknowledgement and References. The majority of the information in this article found on the Bumblebee Conservation Trust Website at <https://bumblebeeconservation.org>

The information about Honey Bees can be found at the Planet Bee Foundation Website <http://www.planetbee.org>

Unexpected Pleasures of Road Stewarding - Kevin Baker

A few weeks back I was sitting with my feet up, enjoying my after dinner cup of tea, when the doorbell went.

I opened the door and there was a gentleman holding out a carrier bag to me.

'Hi, I'm John from the Residents' Association,' he announced, 'I just wanted to thank you for volunteering to become a Road Steward and I have brought along an information pack, together with the Recorders'.

Hopefully, I managed to suppress my surprise and I said that he was welcome, took the proffered carrier bag and wished him a pleasant evening.

'Who was that?' my wife, Linda, enquired.

'John, from the Residents' Association' I replied. 'Apparently I have volunteered to become a Road Steward!'

To which she replied that I had!

I didn't doubt her, but it was probably one of those occasions when we were talking generally about her role in the Association (she's the Treasurer) and she mentioned that they needed more Road Stewards and asked if I would be interested in doing it. And I also have no doubt that I would have replied, something along the lines of 'I don't see why not', and that was that! Either that, or she asked me and my mind was elsewhere and I just said yes, not really knowing

what I was saying yes to (You guys will know what I'm talking about, but I must watch that in future!)

So, having got over the shock, I planned my first foray into my new role in the community. I chose a day when the sun was out and the birds were singing. And do you know what? It was a really pleasant experience. I was out in the fresh air, getting lots exercise running up and down steps (and there are a LOT of steps on my section of road!), enjoying looking at all the gardens and seeing what everyone has done with them. Before I started, I wasn't quite sure what to expect, but with the exception of one gentleman (and he'll never know I've mentioned him as I WON'T be delivering a Recorder to him!) everyone was very friendly and welcoming. So to all of you that I met, thank you. And to everyone, why don't you go and say hello to your neighbours, they're a friendly bunch (well mostly anyway – see above!).

We live in a lovely area, but being out at work five days a week, we seldom get to see our fellow residents, so it was so nice to have the opportunity to be able to meet and chat to some of you. It set me up very nicely for the rest of the day; that is until someone ran into the back of our car. But that's another story.

If you would be interested in becoming a road steward please contact John Rapp

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MP's Report

Chris Philp

Southern Rail

Over the summer Southern Rail passengers had to endure a drop in services due to industrial action from the drivers union Aslef. Southern Rail drivers are contracted to work 4 days a week, with the 5th day counting as overtime. This ban therefore meant that Southern Rail experienced a shortage of drivers. Last year the Secretary of State ordered Southern to employ more drivers – they are complying with this, but it takes time to recruit and train new drivers. Following calls from myself, other MPs and the Secretary of State, the unions have called off all industrial action and resumed talks with Southern Rail. I am calling for both sides to reach a conclusion that puts the interests of passengers first.

The Government recently ordered Govia Thameslink Railway (GTR, who run the Southern franchise) to fund £13.4 million in improvements. I welcome the Government's decision to impose this charge on GTR and the company's decision to accept the need for service improvements. The £13.4 million will be invested in three ways: new projects and improvements that will benefit passengers directly, 50 new on-board supervisors and improving train performance. I welcome this move, which will be alongside the Government's own investment of £300 million in infrastructure improvements.

Purley Oaks Recycling Centre and the proposed traveller site

The Council's proposed traveller site at the Purley Oaks recycling centre is still under review as part of the wider Local Plan. This proposal from the Council is something that

both local residents and I have been campaigning against since it was first suggested. If allowed to go ahead it will cause significant disruption to the area which is almost entirely surrounded by residential properties and would be completely out of place in a suburban environment. Traffic congestion in the area has also reached breaking point; with queues of vehicles trying to access the recycling centre from the main road. A traveller site would greatly exacerbate this situation. The Planning Inspector involved in the Croydon Local Plan concluded his public examination in May and the outcome is currently awaited. It is anticipated that the Local Plan will be completed later this year.

Purley Skyscraper

The 17-floor skyscraper in Purley is also still under review. In April I was able to secure a rare Government intervention on the Council's decision to allow the skyscraper to go ahead. By "calling in" the proposal, the final decision is now in the hands of the independent Planning Inspector. Without this, the Council's decision to allow a skyscraper that is totally out of character with the rest of the area would have been final. There is no guarantee at all about the decision the Inspector will reach. But at this local inquiry, local people will now have the chance to put their views to someone independent who will hopefully listen more carefully than the council. There will be public hearings on this in January.

School Funding

Croydon's schools have traditionally been underfunded. The Government's National Funding Formula re-distributes funding to correct some historic unfairness. Croydon schools actually benefit, as Croydon has

been historically underfunded. For example, Woodcote High will get a 10% increase (worth £500,000 a year), Riddlesdown will get a 10% increase and Oasis Coulsdon a 12% increase. Following the Government's announcement of an extra £1.3bn for schools in the summer, I am in contact with the Secretary of State to ensure that Croydon schools get their fair share of the extra funding.

Councillor's Report - Cllr Tim Pollard Boundary review creates new ward of Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown

It has been my privilege to have served as a councillor in Sanderstead for fifteen years, which for all that time has included Riddlesdown (or at least, a large chunk of it). By one of life's little ironies the vacancy I filled in 2002 was actually created by a boundary review, which saw Sanderstead ward expand, change shape and go from two councillors to three.

The last local boundary review was based on the desire of the independent Local Government Boundaries Commission for England to have all wards in London set at three members. This did lead to some odd outcomes and produced a number of wards which didn't really conform to real places: an example being Heathfield ward, made up of a bit of Shirley, Addington Village, Monks Hill and Forestdale.

Shortly after the change of control at the council in 2014, the new administration opted to request a boundary review. Sometimes the Boundary Commission insist on a review where enough wards have become electorally unbalanced, but this was not the case in Croydon: the council administration chose to

have this review. For the last year we have been through three stages of consultation where councillors and the public had the opportunity to input their ideas and comments about LGBCE's draft scheme. Fortunately the 'three councillor ward everywhere' idea has been consigned to history and the new boundaries can be made up of a mix of one, two and three member wards. This means the wards can better reflect real communities.

Back in the spring LGBCE published its draft plan. Following another consultation, the draft scheme has now been modified slightly and become the LGBCE's final proposal to parliament for how the wards will be.

For the Purley area the various residents' associations put in submissions suggesting that a two member ward covering Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown and a three member ward covering Purley and Woodcote would be best. This ensures that everywhere that generally looks to Purley as its district centre is included in a Purley-centric ward. At the moment some parts of the place of Purley are in Kenley, Coulsdon or Waddon wards.

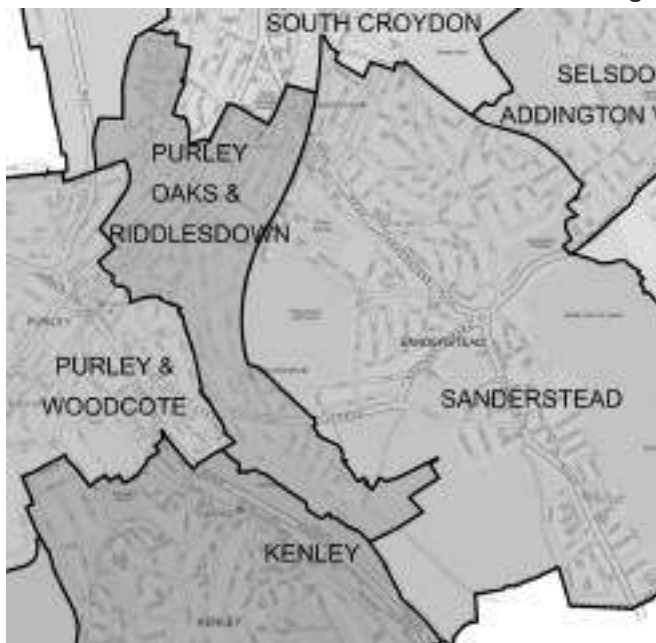
For Sanderstead, Sanderstead Residents' Association proposed a ward which closely matches SRA's patch, and also the old parish of Sanderstead. Everywhere which would normally think of itself as Sanderstead is included in the ward.

It is these proposals which have been agreed by the commission and which we will see implemented at the May 2018 local election (see attached map). Sadly this means that as a ward team we will be saying goodbye to the Riddlesdown area, which is now included in the Purley Oaks and Riddlesdown ward. However, by way of consolation we are getting an area of the current Croham ward

between Ridgeway School and Croham Hurst, which most residents think of as being Sanderstead.

served by whoever the new Purley Oaks & Riddlesdown ward elects.

Please do get in touch if you have any questions.



The local plan

I have written several times in recent years about the progress of the development of our local plan. The local plan is the framework of policies which decide how land can be developed and what can and cannot be built in different areas.

You may recall that the council has developed a lot of very good planning policy which everyone can support. Unfortunately for some areas the opposite is true and it has not listened to residents and local councillors on a number of major policies which will affect our communities for decades.

Sanderstead has also gained an area of the current Selsdon ward to the west of Upper Selsdon Road including Arundel and Norfolk Avenues and the other roads north of Sanderstead Plantation. The southern area of the ward stays unchanged.

For Sanderstead, the key changes that many residents object to were:

Boundary changes can never make everyone happy, but overall we think LGBCE has done a good job in creating boundaries which match the real places in which people live, not just in Sanderstead but across the borough.

- The proposal to allow intensification of development in Onslow Gardens and the roads around it, in particular wanting to see future development being at least three stories high.
- The introduction of a Gypsy and Traveller site in the area behind the Purley Oaks Recycling Centre.
- Removal of Purley Downs Golf Club, Croham Hurst and Sanderstead Plantation from the Green Belt and giving them instead designation as Metropolitan Open Land.
- The placement of a supermarket on the

As a Riddlesdown resident you will continue to be served by the current Purley or Sanderstead teams (depending on which side of the current border you live), but after the next local election in May 2018 you will be

borough border at Hamsey Green, where a recent appeal was unsuccessful on the grounds of significant access difficulties.

Supported by many local residents' associations, I and Cllr Jason Perry from Croham ward spent many days early this summer attending the sessions of the 'Inspection in Public', where an independent inspector evaluates the soundness of the plan. It was quite clear in the sessions that the council's case was less than stellar in a number of the areas and the evidence presented did not always justify the conclusions the council had come to.

I was particularly critical of the plainly absurd case for intensifying Onslow Gardens (and several other sites in the south of the borough). The evidence quite simply didn't stack up. So I am delighted that the council has now agreed to withdraw the Onslow Gardens zone entirely.

On the Hamsey Green Lidl site, the proposed policy didn't seem to reflect the previous appeal decision and should have paid more attention to the identified access problems.

And on the gypsy and traveller site, only a very bizarre set of criteria allowed the Purley Oaks site (originally way down the list of suitable sites) to rise to become the 'best' site. Essentially the council argued that the site must go in an area of low deprivation so that it won't put additional strain on already overstretched social services. This rather ignores the point that all such high-intervention services are not provided in low deprivation areas, instead being focused where the need is, in the higher deprivation wards!

The Inspector operated a very fair hearing process and I think everyone felt they had

been given every opportunity to make their points. This is in rather stark contrast to how people who have appeared before the local planning committee often feel: decisions there all too often feel like a rubber-stamping exercise.

We don't yet know what the outcome on these issues will be, but we will update our blog when the Inspectors' report is published (www.croydonconservatives.com/sanderstead) and I am sure RRA will as well.

Councillor's Report - Cllr Yvette Hopley

Community Budget

We were pleased to be able to fund a new notice board for Riddlesdown out of our community budget. It is situated on the green opposite the shops in Lower Barn Road. It is already being put to good use.

The local councillors have a ward budget for local ideas and projects so do get in touch with us if you feel you have something for consideration. Our contact details are in the back of this magazine.

Lidl

A number of residents have been in touch in relation to the proposed development of the site at Hamsey Green. Whilst we all accept that the site needs to be developed of major concern has been the access on to Tithe Pit Shaw Lane with safety of children and the increased traffic flow being an important consideration.

I wrote to the council and this is the response I received from the council officer:

"We have had further conversations with Lidl and their agents about a possible amended scheme for the Good Companions site and



whilst they had advised us that they would like a pre application process to remain confidential they have accepted that the redevelopment of the site remains a live issue locally and acknowledge that residents (as well as the ward councillors) need to be made aware of its existence and be suitably engaged.

It is fair to say that the pre-application process is at a relatively early stage and the main issues (as with the previous schemes) are focussed around design and highway safety considerations. I understand that they are also engaging with Surrey County Council over various highway issues.

It is certainly very important that residents and councillors are fully engaged in this process and have the opportunity to comment on any future application.

Dr Agnelo Fernandes, Clinical Chair of NHS Croydon CCG

I thought it would be worth sharing some information sent to all GPs and stakeholders in Croydon in relation to NHS England who published their annual assessment for 2016/17 for all CCGs in the country from Dr Agnelo Fernandes. He comments as follows:

“While NHS Croydon CCG has been assessed as ‘good’ for the clinical priority areas of Cancer and Dementia, NHS England has given us a (draft) headline rating for the last financial year of Inadequate. The CCG’s overall ‘Inadequate’ rating is driven by ‘Red’ ratings for leadership and finance.

As a result of this assessment, all CCGs with this rating will be placed in a reframed special measures regime. NHS England will be writing to us in the coming weeks to outline exactly what this will mean for us.

Although we are of course disappointed to

remain in financial special measures, we welcome the support offered by NHS England. This rating reflects the challenges we have faced and the difficult choices we have had to make. Since our inception we have stepped up to combat our financial challenges. We have delivered savings of just under £50 million over the last four years and we are focussed on securing financial balance over the next 18 months.

We know we can’t do this alone and we are taking this opportunity to work closely with you and to reset relationships with our partners, strengthen primary care and general practice and build on the work we are doing with them to improve outcomes for the people of Croydon.

NHS England has highlighted the following areas of strength for the CCG that I am enormously proud of and know we will continue to build on over the coming year:

- The innovative thinking demonstrated in the development of the Outcomes Based Commissioning contract for those aged over 65.
- We have delivered an integrated urgent care service for the borough
- The CCG annual report on patient and public participation report demonstrated a clear vision for both collective and individual involvement, well linked to CCG strategy and health priorities.
- We consistently delivered on the cancer two week wait standard across the year and also met the breast cancer two week wait standard for all but the first month of the year.
- We delivered a continuous and sustained improvement in the dementia diagnosis standard across the year exceeding the

standard for the final five months of 2016/17.

- For the final quarter of the year, we performed in the top quartile of CCGs nationally for indicators including maternal smoking at delivery, appropriate prescribing, one year survival from all cancers.

We have reflected on this assessment and our progress to date and we know what needs to be done in the future. I wanted to share with you our four top priorities to help transform the CCG's future focus:

1. Resetting and strengthening relationships with our core partners
2. Developing the Governing Body and Clinical Leadership to better meet the challenges ahead
3. Supporting primary care and general practice to make it more sustainable
4. Achieving financial balance within 18 months

We are very grateful to our staff and GP membership for their hard work, support and commitment to finding new ways to make savings and efficiencies. We want to work closely with all of our partners so that we can collectively focus our resources where we can have the biggest impact on people's health and well-being whilst continuing to improve the quality of local services."

Riddlesdown Collegiate

Soumick Dey - Principal

At the time of writing, we are celebrating record-breaking A Level results at Riddlesdown Collegiate as our Year 13 students have achieved the best results we have ever seen. Half of all grades were A*-B, with a quarter of all grades at A* or A. We will celebrate our top achievers at the Collegiate Celebration Evening next month – including Liam Macdonald A*A*A going to Southampton

University to study Aerospace Engineering, Zara Burton A*AAA going to Bristol University to study Engineering Design, and both Alexander Crawley A*AA and Jocelyn Hampton A*AAC going to study Medicine at Manchester University and Queen Mary University, respectively. These results are testament to the quality and hard work of our students and staff and the superb support they receive from families. Whilst I am delighted with such academic success, particularly at a time when new A Levels have been made more difficult, I am even happier that students have clearly been well-prepared for their next steps. Almost everyone has secured a place at their first choice university and I am looking forward to hearing of all their future successes in the years to come. We now await GCSE results and I hope that there will be just as much to celebrate.

These successes come at the end of another eventful academic year at the Collegiate. Back in February, we welcomed audiences to four stunning performances of this year's musical production, *West Side Story*. The cast, technical crew, orchestra and wider support team totalled almost 200 students and the show attracted many positive reviews. In the summer term, students performed a modern version of Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* in The @RC Theatre. The Creative and Performing Arts (CPA) College also hosted its annual Art Exhibition and its inaugural Design Exhibition, both of which were well-supported by the community. And our Year 7 Football Team made Riddlesdown history by reaching the final of the National Cup!

The Summer Concert and the Sports Awards Evening rounded off the summer term's events and served to remind us of the value of

such wider opportunities on students' overall development and education. At the same time, students have had many opportunities to take their learning outside of the Collegiate with trips to Windsor Castle and Howletts Park and abroad to Italy (Classical Civilization), Austria (Skiing) and Germany (Football Tour).

Readers will probably be aware by now that from September, we are making some changes to the timings of the Collegiate day. The Collegiate day will start at 8.30am every day, with students asked to arrive from 8.00am. Students will be dismissed at 2.40pm on Mondays, Wednesday and Fridays and at 3.30pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. These changes have been designed to make better use of time and facilities, whilst supporting student and staff wellbeing. In practice, I do not expect these changes to make a significant difference to students' arrival in the morning as the vast majority of students are already on the site by 8.30am – this will simply formalise that start time. With regards to the end of the day, we have advised Transport for London of the need for the bus timetables to reflect these changes and they have indicated that their planning team will respond accordingly. I hope that these changes will not cause inconvenience to our neighbours but wanted to make sure that you were informed.

At the same time, we have been considering ways in which we can engage even more effectively with our local community. We are very proud of our location and the reputation that we have developed. It is important to us that we continue to maintain a strong and positive relationship with our neighbours and we are therefore inviting you to become part of a mailing group who will receive regular information and updates from the Collegiate.

These updates will aim to keep you informed about activities taking place on site, provide you with weekly Newsletters and offer advance information on events that may impact on the roads in the vicinity.

If you would like to receive such information, please send an email to community@riddlesdown.org so that we can add your details to our database and begin to keep you more informed about the Collegiate's activities and successes.

19th Purley (Riddlesdown) Scout Group

Liz O'Brien Group Scout Leader

As the academic year comes to an end and we have a well-earned break, we can reflect on the year. We recently held our AGM which had a great turnout and was a celebration of all the children's achievements with Beaver, Cub and Scout of the year. It was also a good opportunity to thank all the leadership team, the parents and the children for their support throughout the year. We currently have a waiting list for both beavers and cubs which is true testament to the varied programme we put on for the children and the enthusiasm for the leaders.



Liam Bailey Beaver of the Year)

One of the highlights of the year was a weekend trip to PGL, a residential activity

centre. There were 50 of us in total, drawn from all sections of the groups (Beavers, Cubs and Scouts), and we had a fun packed weekend of activities including raft building, zip wire and giant swing. We have been lucky enough to be able to book again for next year using the discount available with our Sainsbury's Active Kids vouchers.



PGL 2017

Another highlight was our Family Fun Day, this was only the second year we have held this

event and it was another great day. We had a steady stream of people all afternoon and we made an amazing £934 so this will definitely be back next year!

As I mentioned in the last article, we are now working closely with the Riddlesdown Association, particularly with the social events so looking to the next term ahead we have the following to look forward to:-

Family quiz & BBQ (30/09/17)

Fireworks (6/11/17)

As with any Group like ours we rely heavily on good will and lots and lots of fundraising so please do contact me if you are able to assist us at all. Our current project is work on the toilets including the installation of a disabled toilet and shower room. My scout email address is GSL@19thpurley.org.uk

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COMMUNITY PAGES

Short pieces on local associations, events and activities. Submissions should be of around 150-200 words. Each edition we will also offer a 'Featured Group' section, in which an individual group can give a more detailed account of its activities and aims. If you would be interested in submitting an extended feature on your group please contact the editor at editorrra@gmail.com or on 020 8668 4061 to discuss.

The Probus Club of Sanderstead and Riddlesdown

Chris Babbs

Our Probus Club is a friendly group of gentlemen, retired or semi-retired from the professions or business, who are resident in, or connected with, the Sanderstead and Riddlesdown area, and who meet monthly for interest and companionship.

We meet on the first Tuesday of every month at the Whitgift Sport Club (corner of Croham and Croham Manor Roads in South Croydon). After a convivial drink we enjoy a pleasant lunch and then hear an interesting and/or amusing address. This is given by one of our members, drawing on their very rich experience, or by an outside speaker. Topics for the next year range from Croydon's most celebrated criminal (J. S. Balfour), through travel and career experiences, to substantial local issues. Among our speakers in the next 12 months we hope to number our local MP, Chris Philp, and the Croydon Fire Commander.

In December we enjoy a Christmas Lunch, at which we are joined by our ladies.

We also run a variety of interesting and stimulating (in various ways!) outings. This year's programme began with a trip to Old Basing House and the Bombay Sapphire Gin Distillery on 6th April and continued with Chatham Royal Dockyard on 17th May.

If you would like to learn more about the club and its activities, please contact our secretary, Chris Babbs (020 8668 2775, chrisbabbsuk@waitrose.com) or search for Sanderstead and Riddlesdown Probus on-line.



Probus Club of Sanderstead and Riddlesdown at Old Basing House



The Spectacular Greenhouses at Old Basing House

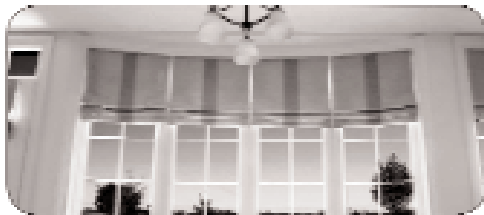
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Community Information:

A - Z of organisations in or close to Riddlesdown (more details on the RRA website)

Bourne Society

Their website includes details of local publications, historical information, downloadable leaflets of walks around the area and photographs of Riddlesdown. Member only meetings; membership £10 a year. There is also a specific Sanderstead Local History Group, which holds monthly meetings for a charge of £2 per meeting for Bourne Society members only. www.bournesoc.org.uk

Cantilena Singers

Cantilena Singers Ladies' Choir was originally formed in 1986. There are no auditions and members do not need to be able to read music. Membership is encouraged for any adult female who is interested to learn and work at achieving a high enough standard for public performance. Members of the choir pay a subscription fee (at present £49 per term). Rehearsals are on Wednesday evenings between 7.30 – 9.30pm. Choir members are encouraged to play a part in the running of the choir and there are publicity, fundraising, social and library sub-committees. We are a friendly choir and welcome new members. If you are interested in trying us out please come along to a meeting in the Methodist Church, Sanderstead) and / or contact Jill on 07957 627 783.

Croydon Art Society

Holds meetings & exhibitions – information at <http://www.croydonartsociety.org.uk/>

Croydon Camera Club

Meets at Shirley Methodist Church Hall most Wednesdays of the year & has outings to photogenic locations. Further Information www.croydoncameraclub.org.uk

Croydon Decorative and Fine Arts Society

Lectures take place on the 2nd Thursday of each month except August and December at 10.45 a.m. in All Saints Church Hall, Onslow Gardens, Sanderstead CR2 9AB. Tea/coffee and biscuits from 10.00 a.m. Visitors welcome. Other activities include Special Interest Days, Visits and Study Tours. Membership Secretary; 020 8680 3049.

CNHSS – Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

Indoor meetings are usually held in the Small Hall of the East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, almost opposite East Croydon Station. www.cnhss.co.uk/

Croydon Symphonic Band

An amateur community wind band with 50 or so players that was formed by an ex Riddlesdown resident over 40 years ago. The band is based in Croydon. New members always welcome. www.csb.org.uk

FoFD - Friends of Farthing Downs

Regular talks & walks & meetings & exhibitions. Hold a Sunday Tea on Farthing Downs the last Sunday of each month, May to September. For more information - e-mail; fofd2@btinternet.com or telephone: 01737 554449.

London Mozart Players

For details of concerts some of which take place locally. www.londonmozartplayers.com/

North Wood Morris Men -Croydon's Own Morris Dancers

They are always looking for new members to dance or play music. They will train dancers and musicians from scratch if need be. All are welcome.

<http://www.northwoodmorris.co.uk/>

Parkrun; Riddlesdown Common

Free 5km Run Every Saturday at 9am - Further details and to register

www.parkrun.org.uk/riddlesdown/

Purley Bury Sports & Social Club

(Brancaster Lane):

Bowls www.purleyburybc.co.uk/

Croquet www.purleyburycroquet.org.uk/

Tennis www.purleyburytennisclub.net/

Purley and District Townswomen's Guild

Meet in the Lounge, United Reformed Church, 906 Brighton Road, Purley CR8 2LN (next to Purley Hospital). First Tuesday every month, 2 – 4pm. Hold regular talks, lunches, etc. Try before you buy! First meeting free.

www.purley-guild.webplus.net/ or email admin@purley-guild.com

Purley Literary Society

Meetings run from October to March. Talks are in the hall of the Purley URC Church, 906 Brighton Road – next to Purley Hospital, at 8pm. Visitors pay £5 at the door or season ticket; £22 for eleven talks or 6 talks £12.

More information: www.purley-literary-society.com

Ramblers (Croydon) -

www.croydonramblers.org.uk

Ramblers (Surrey) –

www.surreyramblers.org.uk

Riddlesdown Lawn Tennis Club,

Lower Barn Rd

A small friendly club where everyone is welcome - regardless of age, experience or skill. Junior section with full coaching sessions organised by MDL Coaching on Sat mornings throughout year. Further details – Dave Kerr - 07773 818443. www.riddlesdownltc.com/

RSPB Croydon Local Group

Monthly Illustrated Wildlife Talks in South Croydon at Whitgift Sports Club, Croham Manor Road -

off Croham Road. South Croydon, CR2 7BG
Second Monday of each month, 2pm and again at 8pm.

Admission £4.00. Everyone is welcome, not just RSPB members.

Free refreshments. A selection of RSPB goods, nuts & seeds are on sale.

Parking limited on site but free in adjacent roads.

64 & 433 buses stop nearby in Croham Road.
MONDAY 9 OCT 2017: "Birds in Art". Jackie Gardner, one of Britain's finest

wildlife artists, looks at the changing trends in the depiction of birds, and how she made the transition from a "naturalist interested in art" to an "artist interested in nature".

MONDAY 13 NOV 2017: "Finland". Jennie Hibbert, one of our regulars, takes us to cool climes and visits Finland, where at one point the temperature sank to -27C!

MONDAY 11 DEC 2017: "Essex & Suffolk estuary wildlife & habitat". Alex Bass runs local birding tours in and around Suffolk and this talk describes the range of saltmarsh habitats and estuary wildlife of Suffolk and Essex. You will want to go there.

MONDAY 8 JAN 2018: "Filey Bay Bird



Observatory". Mark James Pearson tells us about arrivals and departures at the North Yorkshire bird observatory. Migration never stops at this east coast hotspot.

MONDAY 12 FEB 2018: "A year with the B.T.O." Penny Williams describes a year in the life of a regional B.T.O. Representative and the various surveys that the B.T.O. carry out. You probably know some already, e.g. the Bird Atlas.

MONDAY 12 MAR 2018 : "Green Birding". Gary Prescott, known as the Biking Birder, has cycled to all the RSPB and WWT reserves, recording over 300 species in a year. He will describe his experiences and the charities he collects for.

MONDAY 9 APR 2018: "Tropical Queensland". David Boag, will share with us his experiences on a trip to this part of Australia, plus his beautiful photos of the wide diversity of wildlife found there.

For more information contact John Davis on 020-8640 4578

or see www.rspb.org.uk/groups/croydon

St Edmund's Church & Community Hall, Riddlesdown

St Edmund's is a dual purpose building, used both as a church hall and a Riddlesdown community resource. Its congregation are mainly from the Riddlesdown resident community and are friendly and welcoming to all. Sunday services are at 8am and 9.15am. Worship varies week by week. Rev'd Susan Atkinson-Jones is the Team Vicar of Edmund's. Further information: www.sanderstead-parish.org.uk/st_edmund

St Edmund's Lunch Club

St Edmund's Lunch Club for the Retired meets

on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays in the month at St Edmund's at 12.30 pm. The hot lunch costs £3.45, with a small extra charge for tea or coffee. The team hopes that you will enjoy yourself at the lunch club and we look forward to welcoming you many times.

St Edmund's Caring Group

SECG is a voluntary group in Riddlesdown which supports residents in remaining independent and at home when life becomes a little more difficult. We have wonderful volunteers who are happy to help in numerous ways; shopping and being taken to medical appointments are the most popular. Volunteering is such a rewarding experience knowing that you have helped someone to do something that would otherwise have seemed impossible is marvellous. Young or old, if you require support, reassurance or any information, please do give us a call. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please call our new telephone number 020 8651 9442. We are open 10-12 weekday mornings and at all other times there is an answer phone.

St Edmund's Tuesday Night Badminton Club

Tuesday night badminton takes place between 8 - 9.30pm in St. Edmund's church hall during term time. We are a friendly mixed club with a mix of ability and would encourage new members to join. No absolute beginners please. Contact details: Mrs Christine Whitmarsh on 8660 2178 or just drop in one Tuesday evening.

Scouts and Girl Guiding

19th Purley (Riddlesdown), Dunmail Drive, off Mitchley Hill
www.croydonscouting.org.uk/

11th Purley Scout Group; St James Church Hall, Lower Road, Kenley

Beavers – Fridays; 1630 - 1730;

Cubs – Mondays; 1830 - 2000

Scouts – Tuesdays; 1900 - 2100

Enquiries to Peter Pearce (Group Scout Leader) 07947 889920 or

[www.http://11thpurley.org.uk/](http://11thpurley.org.uk/)

16th Purley Scout Group (All Saint's Group, Sanderstead)

www.croydonscouting.org.uk/where-do-we-meet/beavers-cubs-and-scouts/16th-purley-7th-sanderstead-all-saints-group/

18th Purley (United Reform Church).

Scout HQ in Farm Fields.

<http://www.18thpurley.org.uk/>

Beavers – Thursdays; 5.00 – 6.00pm

Cubs – Mondays; 6.30 to 8.00pm

Scouts – Thursdays; 7.30 to 9.00pm

Croydon Girl Guiding

www.girlguidinglaser.org.uk/gdlgallery/croydon

Sanderstead Cricket Club

14 Old Saw Mill, Limsfield Rd, Sanderstead (entrance opposite The Gruffy). Website;

<http://sanderstead.play-cricket.com/>

Sanderstead Dramatic Club -

Contact Mr John Desbottes - Tel 01883 625656 - <http://www.sdclub.org.uk/>

Sanderstead Evening

Townswomen's Guild

Contact Mrs Doreen Nicholls - Tel 020 8657 2072. Meets 3rd Monday of the month at 7.45pm at Sanderstead Methodist Church Hall. www.the-tg.com/Guild/sanderstead-evening/375.aspx

Sanderstead Horticultural Society

Wettern Tree Garden, Purley Oaks Road.

Membership £6 per family. Contact Val Burley 020 8651 5837. Five member lectures a year & Garden Outings to great gardens.

Other member benefits including horticultural advice & Knights discount.

Sanderstead Village WI

<http://www.sandersteadwi.btck.co.uk/>

Selsdon Camera Club

Meet Fridays at 7.30 pm (for a 7.45 pm start) The Methodist Halls 102 Limsfield Road, Sanderstead.

<http://www.selsdoncameraclub.co.uk/>

Selsdon Little Leagues Football & Netball

Providing Football and Netball for local children in the Croydon area.

http://selsdonlittleleagues.leaguerepublic.com/l/newsArticle/new_website.html

Stagecoach Croydon - Theatre Arts Schools for Children

Fridays at Riddlesdown Collegiate 4.30 - 7.30pm; 6 - 18 years; 4.15 - 5.45pm; 4 - 6 years.

Saturdays at Croydon High School

10 am - 1pm or 2.30pm - 5.30pm; 6-18 years;

9.30 am - 11am or 11.15am - 12.45pm; 4-6 years. Tel 0845 265 7083

www.stagecoach.co.uk/croydon

Surrey Wildlife Trust

More Information Tel: 01483 795440 or www.surreywildlifetrust.org



The Jolly Farmers

Live Music & Entertainment several times a week, usually free.

7 Purley Road, Purley CR8 2HA, Tel: 0208 660 2076 or www.jollyfarmers-purley.co.uk

The PROBUS Club of Sanderstead & Riddlesdown

Meet at Old Whitgiftians Sports Club, Croham Rd, S Croydon. From noon on first Tuesday of every month. Further details- Mike Phillips - 020 8407 0305

The University of the Third Age (U3A)

The Third Age Trust is the national representative body for the Universities of Third Age (U3As) in the UK. U3As are self-help, self-managed lifelong learning co-operatives for older people no longer in full time work, providing opportunities for their members to share learning experiences in a wide range of interest groups and to pursue learning not for qualifications, but for fun. <http://www.u3a.org.uk/>

Walk & Cycle Surrey

Further information: <http://www.walkandcycle.co.uk/surreytrails>

Warlingham Horticultural Society

Hold Regular flower shows & plant sales in Warlingham & outings <http://home2.btconnect.com/bransby/hort/hort.htm>

Yoga with Veronica

A mixed ability class suitable for all ages which takes place on Tuesday evenings in St Edmund's Church Hall during term-time between 6.15 - 7.30pm. Yoga will improve your flexibility and strength and help you relax and de-stress after your busy day. Contact: Veronica Moulder; Tel 07803 728868.

DISCLAIMER

Every effort is made to ensure that the above information is factually correct and is made in good faith but accuracy must not be assumed and no responsibility can be taken for any actions arising in the case of error or otherwise. Please bring to the attention of the Editor, any inaccuracies.



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Our MP (Croydon South - Conservative); Mr Chris Philp MP, The House of Commons, London SW1A 0AA
Tel; 020 7219 8026 or visit his Friday mornings surgery; 36 Brighton Rd, Purley CR8 2LG (telephone
for appointment times).

Email; chris.philp.mp@parliament.uk website; www.chrisphilp.com

OUR COUNCILLORS: All letters to Councillors should be sent: c/o The Town Hall, Katharine
Street, Croydon CR0 1NX

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Tel: 8405 6752

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Email: simon.brew@croydon.gov.uk

Badsha Quadir

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Email: badsha.quadir@croydon.gov.uk

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Email: yvette.hopley@croydon.gov.uk

Lynne Hale

Tel: 8405 6721

Email: lynne.hale@croydon.gov.uk

Tim Pollard

Tel: 8251 8500

Email: councillor@timpollard.co.uk

GREATER LONDON ASSEMBLY MEMBER FOR CROYDON & SUTTON

Steve O'Connell (Conservative)

Tel: 020 7983 4353 Email: steve.o'connell@london.gov.uk Website: www.steveoconnell.org

RIDDLEDOWN/LONDON TRAIN TIMES (SOUTHERN RAILWAY)

Times below are from 21 May 2017 until 9 December 2017. Residents are advised to check and confirm
times with Southern Railway or National Rail.

To East Croydon (EC), & London Victoria, (London Bridge (LB)): Weekdays: 06.15(LB), 06.42(LB), 07.02,
07.11(LB), 07.35, 07.46(LB), 08.04, 08.18(LB), 08.37, 08.46(LB), 09.06, 09.36 then 06 and 36 mins past hour (except
the 17.37) until 23.06 (Plus LB train at 18.46, EC only trains at 19.16, 19.46 & 20.16).

Saturdays (To Victoria only): 07.06, 07.36, and then 36 and 06 mins past hour until 23.06.

Sundays (To Victoria only): 08.49, 09.41, and then 11 and 41 mins past hour until 20.41, 21.41, 22.41, 23.38.

To London Bridge - No direct services Saturdays & Sundays.

From London Victoria to Riddlesdown: Weekdays: 05.47, 06.24, 07.32, 08.53, 09.23, 09.54 and then 23 and 53
mins past hour until 22.23, 22.54 (Mon to Thurs) 22.53 (Fri only), 23.23, 23.47.

Saturdays: 06.23, 06.53 and then 23 and 53 mins past hour until 23.24 & 23.47.

Sundays: 07.47, 08.53, 09.23, 09.53, 10.23, 10.53 and then 23 & 53 mins past hour until 19.53, 20.53, 21.53, 22.36.

From London Bridge to Riddlesdown: Weekdays: 07.03, 07.18, 07.50, 08.24, 17.13, 17.45, 18.17 & 18.47.

Saturdays & Sundays: No direct Services.

From East Croydon to Riddlesdown: Weekdays: 06.06, 06.41, 07.17 (to Hurst Green), 07.34, 07.50, 08.09, 08.41,
09.11, 09.41, 10.11, then 41 and 10 mins past hour until 16.40, 17.10, 17.30, 17.42, 17.58, 18.11, 18.31, 18.43, 19.02,
19.11, 19.41, 20.10, 20.42, 21.10, then 41 mins and 10 mins past hour until 00.16.

Saturdays: 06.41, 07.10 then 41 & 10 mins past hour (except the 09.11) until 23.41 & 00.07.

Sundays: 08.10, 09.10, 09.40, & then 10 & 40 mins past hour (except the 11.11) until 21.11, 22.10, 22.57.

Enquiries: Southern Customer Services: Tel: 08451 272920 or www.southernrailway.com National Rail Enquiries:
08457 484950 or www.nationalrail.co.uk

Local Bus Route and Frequency

Bus 412 (Arriva)

The 412 starts/ends at West Croydon Bus Station and travels along Wellesley Rd, Katharine Str, High Str, South End,
Selsdon Rd, Upper Selsdon Rd, Addington Rd (stop for Selsdon), Rectory Park, Mitchley Ave, Downs Court Rd,
Godstone Rd, & ends/starts at Brighton Rd, at Purley Hospital.

Frequency Weekdays & Saturdays: Early; 20 mins, Peak; 15 mins, Daytime; 15 mins, Evenings; 20 mins, Late
Evenings; 30 mins. Frequency Sundays; 30 mins.

Enquiries: TfL London Buses: Tel; 0845 300 7000 or TfL website: www.tfl.gov.uk

Links also available via the Transport section on the RRA website: www.riddlesdownresidents.org.uk

**Timetables are subject to change, so if in doubt, check with TfL or the Operator(s). The RRA cannot accept
any responsibility for the accuracy of the above information.**

Library Closing Days: Purley and Selsdon – Wednesdays and Sundays: Sanderstead – Mondays, Thursdays and Sundays.

Croydon Council's telephone number for all enquiries: 020 8726 6000, website www.croydon.gov.uk Address:
London Borough of Croydon, Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA.

RRA Committee Meetings: usually 3rd Wednesday in January, March, September, November. Contact a Committee
member for details. The AGM is on 11 April 2018 at 7.30pm in St Edmunds Church Hall.



Riddlesdown Tennis

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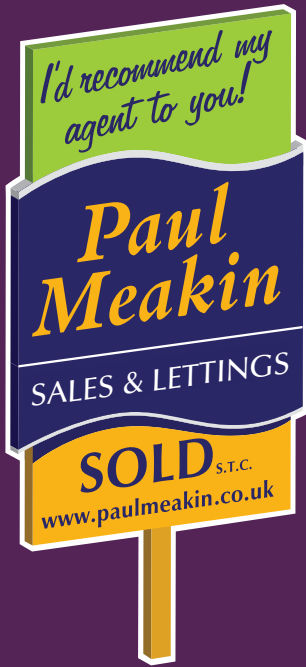
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